



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,867	03/16/2004	Masayuki Takenaka	118363	1563
25944	7590	03/08/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER NGUYEN, HANH N	
			ART UNIT 2834	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,867

Applicant(s)

TAKENAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Nguyen N. Hanh

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 2 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara et al.

Regarding claim 1, Hara et al. disclose a drive system, comprising: a plurality of electric power devices (motor and generator in Fig. 6); a drive case having a plurality of case segments (10, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10' in Figs. 5-7) which are connected to each other, each of the electric power devices being contained in one of the case segments (Fig. 5); and a plurality of inverters (Col. 6, lines 55-60), one for each of the electric power devices (Col. 2, lines 10-15), wherein the inverters are collectively attached to one of the case segments, and a flow path of a coolant for cooling the inverters is positioned between the one of the case segments and the inverters (Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 2, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein the inverters are contained in a common inverter case (11 in Figs. 7 and 9) which is attached to the drive case and the flow path of the coolant is positioned between the one of the case segments and the inverter case (Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 18, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein the inverters are fixed on a common base (11) which is attached to one of the case segments (10' in Fig.

Art Unit: 2834

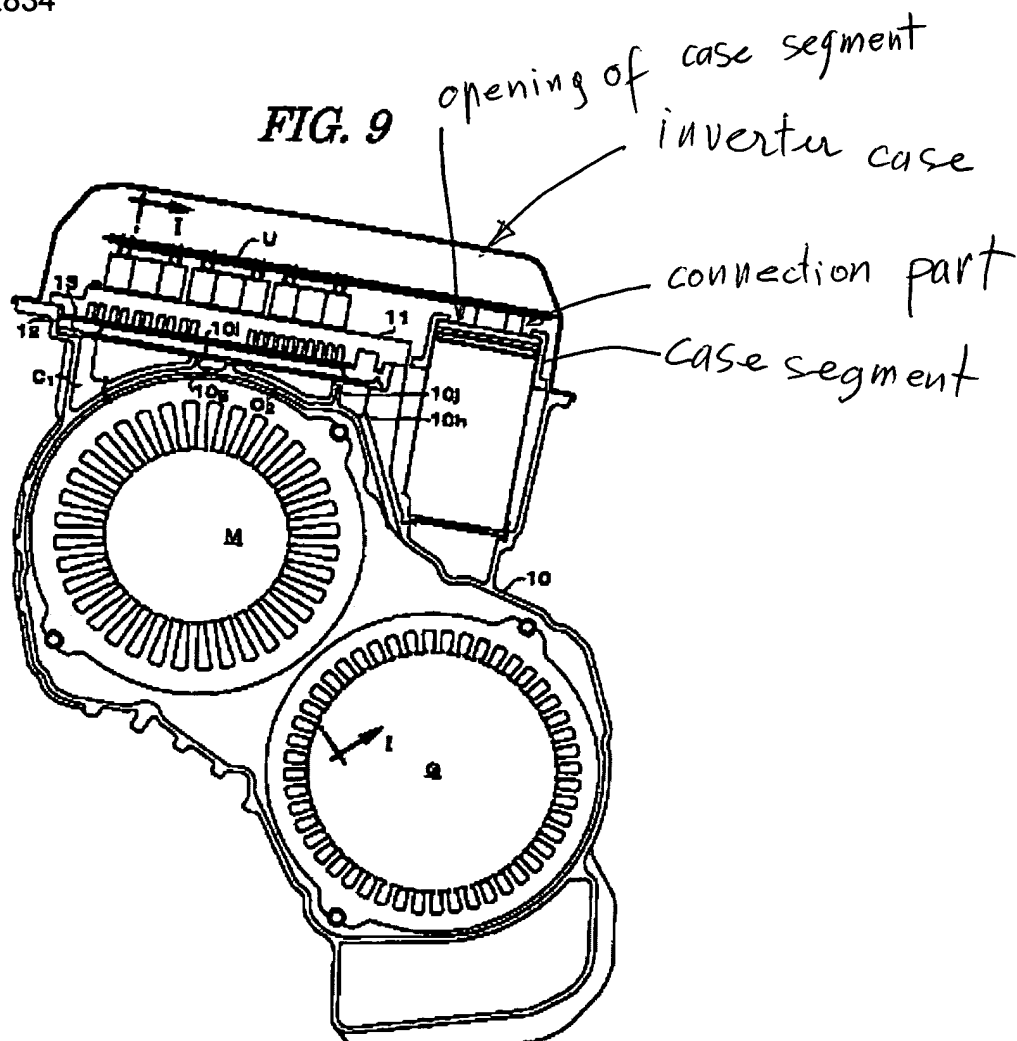
7) and the flow path of the coolant is positioned between the one of the case segments and the base (Fig. 6).

Regarding claims 15, 19 and 20, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein the electric power devices are connected to the respective inverters with connection parts (please see markups below) which extend out from the corresponding case segments.

Regarding claims 21 and 16, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein each of the connection parts has a terminal which extends through the corresponding case segment and which projects into the inverter case (Fig. 9).

Regarding claims 17 and 22, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein each of the terminals is positioned near an opening of the corresponding case segment.

Art Unit: 2834



### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3 and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al. in view of Tsuruhara.

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Hara et al. show the drive system wherein the inverter case (11 in Fig. 7) is attached to the drive case such that the inverter case extends over the case segments (10'). Hara et al. fail to show two (or a plurality as in claim 11) sealing members are provided, one interposed between the one of the case segments (10') and the inverter case and the other between the drive case (10) and the inverter case.

However, Tsuruhara discloses a motor structure wherein a sealing members (12 and 13 in Fig. 1) is provided between the two casing part for the purpose of preventing coolant leaking (col. 4, lines 45-50).

Since Hara et al. and Tsuruhara are in the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Tsuruhara would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Hara et al.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having an ordinary skill in the art to modify Hara et al. by providing two (or a plurality as in claim 11) sealing members, one interposed between the one of the case segments (10') and the inverter case and the other between the drive case (10) and the inverter case as taught by Tsuruhara for the purpose of preventing coolant leaking.

Regarding claim 4, Hara et al. show the drive system wherein a step is interposed between the drive case (10 in Fig. 7) and the inverter case (10'). Therefore, the combination Hara et al. and Tsuruhara show the sealing member interposed between the drive case and the inverter case tolerates a step between the case segments.

Regarding claims 5, 8 and 12, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein the electric power devices are connected to the respective inverters with connection parts which extend out from the corresponding case segments (refer to claim 5).

Regarding claims 6, 9 and 13, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein each of the connection parts has a terminal which extends through the corresponding case segment and which projects into the inverter case (refer to claim 6).

Regarding claims 7, 10 and 14, Hara et al. disclose a drive system wherein each of the terminals is positioned near an opening of the corresponding case segment (refer to claim 7).

### ***Conclusion***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh N Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schubert, can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and (571) 273-8300 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

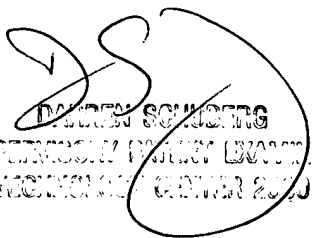
Application/Control Number: 10/800,867

Page 7

Art Unit: 2834

HNN

March 3, 2006

  
Doreen Schmitt  
SUPERVISOR/ART UNIT 2834  
TECHNICAL CENTER 2006